WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 9, NO. 11 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | MARCH 1999

"I may be arrested. I may be tried and thrown into jail, but I will never be silent." Emma Goldman

At a crossroads: Locals work to make the westside more community-friendly

Megan Davis

The corner lot at the intersection of Harrison and Division, longtime site of the old Copeland Lumber warehouse, may soon be home to a 24-hour gas station and mini-mart. The local owner plans to get a return on his investment by developing the weed and litter-filled expanse into a gas station for lease. Meanwhile, growing numbers of local residents are asking the questions: "Do we really need another gas station in this area?" and "Is there any other way the owner can make a good profit, while improving, rather than degrading, the lives of those living nearby?"

There has been some debate over whether the proposed fuel/mini-mart is allowable, since it is legally required to be developed in a "community-friendly" way.

Locals have a number of concerns about the proposed gas station/mini mart. Immediate neighbors to the lot cite the obvious problems of round-the-clock noise, noxious fumes, construction inconveniences, and decreased access to their homes due to the proposed station designs blockage of an alleyway. Many residents, as well as more casual users of the area, express concern over increased traffic at an already congested intersection. Other reasons given for individuals' concern are economic repercussions to nearby businesses, compatibility of the structure's scale with that of surrounding buildings, and environmental hazards. Since gas stations (one no longer standing) have contaminated the soil at two of the intersection's corners already, rendering the soil dead to plant growth for an undetermined amount of decades, some locals are reluctant to see a third corner lot receive the same treatment.

There has been some debate over whether the proposed fuel/mini-mart is allowable, since it is legally required to be developed in a "community-friendly" way. "How many gas stations do we really need in that area?" asked Yuri Koslen, an environmentalist opposed to the plan for a gas station. This is a question many have asked, since the area is already loaded with gas stations; Along Harrison there are an Exxon, a British Petroleum (BP), and a Texaco all within two blocks of the corner lot, and along Division there's one gas station within several blocks in each direction.

Opposition to the proposed gas station is growing. So far, however, those opposed to the plan have not been acting in an organized fashion. At the Feb. 16 City Council meeting, at least a dozen residents attended out of concern over the proposed fuel/mini-mart. Several immediate neigh-

(Continued page 15)

EF! On Trial for Steelworkers

Molly Jarchow

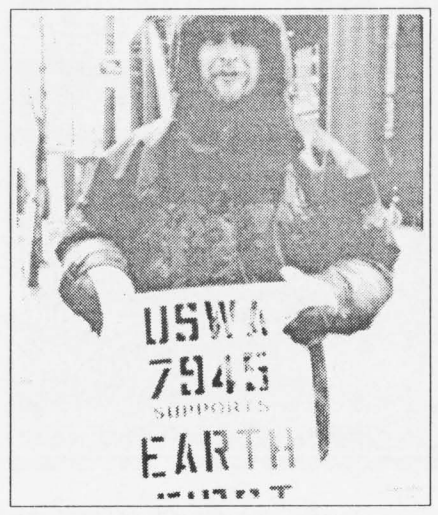
On March 3rd, seven Earth First activists will be on trial for trespassing charges, filed from an action that took place on December 9, 1998 at the Kaiser Aluminum Plant in Tacoma, WA. The strong alliance between Earth First! and the USWA is further backed by Jobs With Justice, IWW, and the Central Labor Council, including Kitsap, Pierce, Thurston, and Lewis counties. All of these groups are involved in organizing a rally on the day of the trial, which will be the final of three actions that demand that Charles Hurwitz realize that his labor practices are not welcome here on the west coast. On March 1st there will be a mass Civil Disobedience training in Sacramento, followed by a Judi Bari Memorial line crossing in Humboldt County on March 2nd, and this rally in Tacoma on the 3rd. There will be a ripple effect running up the coast against the Maxxam corporation, which oversees Pacific Lumber and Kaiser Aluminum.

We will be gathering at People's Park in Tacoma, 9th and Martin Luther Way at 11:00 am, proceed to march to the courthouse at 11:30, and begin the rally at noon. Come to support your local union, environmentalists, and be a part of the cooperative movement between the two.

Cooperation between Earth First!, the IWW and striking Kaiser steelworkers first developed against the infamous Charles Hurwitz and his Maxxam corporation over the unfair and union busting measures of the Kaiser plants. The first collaborative action was on December 9, 1998 at the Port of Tacoma, involving a boat blockade, picketers and direct action on the crane and conveyor belts. Together Earth First! and members of the United Steelworkers of America successfully made their opposition to Hurwitz and Kaiser known, and since then they have worked in solidarity. This alliance between environmentalists and unionists doubles the impact and damage to Maxaam, while grabbing the press coverage and inspiring many other groups working on similar issues.

At the 8th Annual Western Ancient Forest Conference, February 5-7 in Ashland, Oregon, representatives from the Olympia Earth First! and USWA spoke on a panel about "Judi Bari's Dream." The unity and energy within the group was enhanced because the main theme and opposition was against Hurwitz and corporate America, rather than each other. Inspiration empowered the group as we reestablished the fact that we live in a democracy, we have a vote and therefore a voice, and together we can show corporations that the people still run this country!

There have been several other demonstrations in which the activists and the workers have coordinated together. An action in front of the Pacific Lumber headquarters in Seattle, a road block in front of the Kaiser plant in Tacoma which delayed the change of shifts, and a march to the capital building here in Olympia were all presented by the collaborative effort of both groups. Solidarity is the key and neither organization sees that weakening in the future.



Richard Dolph at an Earth First! rally at the Pacific Lumber Headquarters in Seattle, protesting the Plum Creek land exchange in December, 1998.

Once again we will have the chance to come together, the environmentalists, the IWW, and the steelworkers, to use our strength in numbers to get our message across to our communities, the corporations, and most of all, Charles Hurwitz. The trial for the December 9 action will begin on March 3, 1999 at the Tacoma Court house at 9:30 am, and we plan to have a rally out front to show our support and unity. We will be gathering at People's Park in Tacoma, 9th and Martin Luther Way at 11:00 am, proceed to march to the courthouse at 11:30, and begin the rally at noon. Come to support your local union, environmentalists, and be a part of the cooperative movement between the two. Help us to echo our opposition to Hurwitz all along the west coast on Wednesday the 3rd to make sure that he understands the power of this solidarity loud and clear!

T.U.L.I.P. Needs Your Help!

by Becca Bolo

Do you keep your money stashed under your mattress because the banking options in this area are minimal? Well, soon you won't have to. A group of folks from the local community are building on the idea that a credit union is to a bank what a co-op is to a supermarket. Unfortunately, all the local credit unions have criteria to join based upon either the nature of one's job or the geographical location of one's residence.

T.U.L.I.P. (Thurston Union of Low-Income People) is attempting to charter a credit union within the next two years that specifically services low-income people. Right now, T.U.L.I.P. exists as a club with the goal of forming a field of membership from wh ich to charter the credit union.

T.U.L.I.P.'s mission statement is to create and maintain an accessible, full service credit union organization, which is owned and managed by its low-income members. The organization's activities will include basic member share account and loan services, financial counseling, consumer education, homeowner counseling, check cashing, bill-paying services and direct deposit of recurring payments such as those from employment, retirement, Social Security or Temporary Aid for Needy Families.

The goals of T.U.L.I.P. are: 1. To provide a variety of financial and related services designed to meet the particular needs of the low-income community. 2. To maintain Low-Income Credit Union status as defined by the NCUA, and to ensure eligibility for their Community Development Revolving Loan Program. 3. To operate the credit union in a manner which involves the participation of the low-income community in its management. 4. To staff the Credit Union with a staff collective; To conduct the credit union's business using a consensus decision-making process. 5. To garner support from the non-low-income community in the form of non-member deposits. 6. To provide financial and other resources for assisting in the development of community-building projects.

To help further these goals, T.U.L.I.P. is seeking to recruit a Board of Directors who share T.U.L.I.P.'s commitment to its mission statement and goals. Directors must be able to listen, analyze, think clearly and creatively and work well both as individ uals and in a group. Directors must support T.U.L.I.P.'s commitment to reflect the diversity of the community and

(Continued page 15)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@olywa.net

Back Issues:

Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, March 19

6pm at Bulldog News

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, March 23rd
7pm at Olympia Library

WORKS IN PROGRESS:
PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
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--Tim Wise

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Send to: Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

Letters & Briefs

Olympia-Iraq Solidarity Organization

The newly formed **Olympia-Iraq Solidarity Organization** presents the following two upcoming events:

*Members of the group Voices In the Wilderness, which works to oppose the sanctions on Iraq, as well as other anti-sanctions groups, will be at on the second floor of Bulldog News downtown on **Thursday, March 4, from 6-7pm**.

They'll be coming down from Seattle and Tacoma to discuss what we can do to help the effort to end the sanctions, which kill approximately 250 people every day.

*The Olympia-Iraq Solidarity Organization meets on **Thursday, March 11, from 5-6pm at Traditions Cafe** downtown. Please bring your ideas and energy. The Olympia-Iraq Solidarity Organization is "dedicated to ending the economic sanctions and use of military force against the people of Iraq." Call Sarah at 236-1283 for more information.

Elvia Alvarado

Elvia Alvarado, a peasant leader from Honduras, will be coming to speak in Olympia. Active in human rights issues and land reform struggles for the past 25 years, she will be speaking on the nature of poverty and conflict in Central America. The effects of economic globalization on women and children will be a focus of her talk. She will be speaking on **Thursday, March 11 at 1pm in the Library Lobby of the Evergreen State College, and again at 7pm in Bulldog News.**

Elvia Alvarado was born in Honduras, the poorest country in Central America. She began her activism with the Catholic Church, organizing women's groups to fight malnutrition. It was during this time that she began to question why peasants were malnourished. Through working and speaking with people all over the country, Elvia developed a deep awareness of the internal workings of her society, and the inequalities that exist within it. She has been an organizer for over 20 years, working to establish and enforce land reforms. She is currently head of International Relations for the Union of Rural Workers. It is from this background that she comes to speak to us of the current struggles of small farmers against the privatization of agriculture and the free market economic policies of the Honduran government, which are threatening to destroy the campesinos' way of life for good.

Olympians Concerned About Democracy

(OCAD) General Meeting. Sunday, March 28, 2-4 PM, Olympia Public Library. Agenda will include: Panal discussion about corporate dominance and democracy in Olympia. Vote on resolution to take final draft of Olympia Measure on Corporations and Democracy to City Council for passage into law. All are welcome to attend. Read the draft of the Olympia Measure and submit your comments online at www.olywa.net/ocad. For more info. email us at ocad@olywa.net or call Jennifer at 352-5636.

Bread & Roses

is in need of volunteers to clean, paint, and refurbish the space next to the Community Kitchen on 114 Cherry St in downtown Olympia. Come help prepare for the opening of the Dorothy Day Family Project. We'll be there from 10am-3pm every Saturday till we open in the spring. B&R is non-profit community project dedicated to helping the homeless and the disenfranchised since 1982.

SAFEPLACE

RAPE RELIEF AND WOMEN'S SHELTER SERVICES is now recruiting dedicated volunteers. Application deadline is March 15th. Volunteer training begins April 5th. We need your time, talents and experience for: · Counseling and referral · Working with youth · Answering crisis line calls · Facilitating support groups · Community outreach · Fundraising · Officework · And more

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 786-8754 V/TTY

Y2K Preparation Workshop Series

March is the month we begin to discuss Food! It's such a big topic that we're devoting every Saturday in March to exploring it.

A buddy system will be set up for more experienced gardeners to help the less experienced. Sponsored by the Sustainable Community Roundtable. For info call 352-2215 or <roundtable@olywa.net>

March 6 *Gardening Networking,* 1-4pm at United Churches, 1101 1th Ave SE Olympia

March 13 *CSA, Community Gardens,* 1-

(Continued page 15)

The Capitol Theater in Downtown Olympia

Olympia FILM SOCIETY

To receive a program or get information about shows, show times, locations, and prices call 754-6670.

SOUTH SOUND GREEN PAGES

South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

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Olympia, WA 98501
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speech@olywa.net www.olywa.net/speech

MARCH 1999

The Risks of Being Female

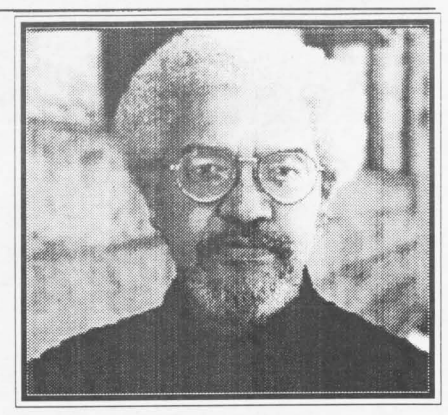
- **Women are raped more than 876,000 times each year. More than three-fourths of female victims are raped by a partner or former partner.**
- **Eighteen percent of U.S. women report having been raped at some time in their lives. More than half were under age 18 at the time of the first rape. Twenty-two percent of victims were under age 12; 32 percent were between 12 and 17. Studies suggest that women raped before age 18 are more likely to be raped as adults.**
- **If stalking is defined as the victim experiencing a high level of fear, more than 1 million U.S. women and 370,000 U.S. men are stalked in a given year. If victims who felt any level of fear are included, as many as 6 million women and a million men may be stalked annually.**
- **U.S. women earned 76 cents for every dollar men made in the first quarter of 1998.**
- **Highest-paid U.S. female corporate executives earn 68 cents to every dollar men make. The median income for men was $765,000; the median for women was $518,596.**
- **At the current rate of progress, women will reach equality with men in decision-making positions only around the year 2465, as reported by the U.S. Fund for a Feminist Majority. A United Nations study puts that date even further away, at around the year 2490.**

Sources: The Tahirih Justice Center; National Violence Against Women Survey; Catalyst

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
I don't believe we can have justice without caring, or caring without justice. **Justine Wise Polier**	**1** **1954**- US explodes H-bomb at Bikini **1998:** Iraq will honor agreement to open suspected weapons sites to UN inspectors	**2** **1998**: New Jersey Supreme Court rules that homosexuals may not be excluded as scoutmasters in the Boys Scouts	**3** **1819**: US starts Indian "civilization" program. **1906**: US dissolves Cherokee government **1991**: Rodney King beaten by L.A. cops	**4** **1829**: Pres Jackson gives "just policy for Indians" speech **1930**: The Coolidge dam is dedicated. It swamps Indian lands.	**5** **1891**: The city of Phoenix offers $200 bounty for dead Indians **1998**: NASA scientists announce ice has been found on the moon	**6** **1857**- Dred Scott decision by Supreme Court opens Northern territory to slavery and denied citizenship to American black
7 **1776**: Congress authorize Col. Gist to organize and equip 200 Indians in Virginia and the Carolinas to fight in Revolutionary War	**8** **1996** - Dow Jones drops 171 points after it was announced unemployment fell to 5.5% **1998**: Fred Doughty resigns from OPD	**9** **1947**- UAW settle strike against Case Manufacturing Co. after 440 days **1989**- Eastern Airlines files for bankruptcy	**10** **1998**: Israeli soldiers shot and killed three Palestinians workers returning to their homes, four other workers were wounded	**11** **1998**: The funerals of three Palestinian workers set off violence on the West Bank with Israeli police killing 32 Palestinians	**12** **1998**: Clinton announces support for bill raising cigarette prices $1.50 a pack and setting an annual cap on the industry's legal liability	**13** *full moon* ● **1998**: Ntn'l Marine Fisheries Sevice gives threatened-species protection for steelhead in lower Columbia River Basin
14 **1833**: Orders are issued again to US Marshals to remove whites from CREEK lands **1884**: Sitting Bull visits St. Paul	**15** **1995**: Margarethe Cammermeyer has book-signing session before Hands Off Washington breakfast at the The Westwater	**16** **1998**: William Cohen directs military to house men and women recruits in separate areas while integrating them in basic training	**17** **1998**: The US Census Bureau estimates Thurston County has grown by 39,124 (24.3%) since 1990 and has passed 200,000	**18** **1937**: A school fire kills 294 in Hew London, Texas **1995** - Food and Drug Admin. approves chicken pox vaccine	**19** **1784**: Congress doesn't want 1 big meeting w/ Indian representatives **1998**: Trade deficit climbed 10.5% in January to $12 billion	**20** **1995** - US District Judge bars Pentagon from discharging 6 homosexuals ruling the "don't ask, don't tell" policy unconstitutional
21 **1996** - House passes Immigration in the National Interest Act doubling Border Patrol, and erecting a fence along the Mex. border	**22** **1998**: Israel says US proposal that Israel withdraw from an additional 13 % of the West Bank within 3 months is "unacceptable"	**23** **1942**- West coast Japanese-Americans move from their homes to internment camps **1983**- Pres. Reagan proposes Star Wars	**24** **1989**- Exxon Valdez runs aground in Prince William Sound **1965**- MLK, Jr and 25,000 marchers converge on Montgomery,	**25** **1998**: Locke signs bill banning minors tobacco possession w/ $50 fine, 4 hours of community service, stop smoking classes	**26** **1996**: Thurston County Prosecutor Bernardean Broadous holds meeting to explain plan to create a countywide police gang task force	**27** **1973**: Sacheen Littlefeather refuses Marlon Brando's Oscar in protest against media, governmental treatment of Natives
28 **1979**- Three Mile Island accident **1995**: Report on the state of the nation's children states 1 in 4 children live in poverty	**29** **1995** - State Supreme Court Justice Utter resigns over death penalty **1996** - Lethal-injection becomes WA's method of execution	**30** **1870**: 15th Amendment ratified **1996** - Lowry vetoes ban on death row inmate organ transplants as unconstitutional	**31** **1904:** India: British kill 100s of Tibetans **1998:** Bus leaves from Olympia w/ 2,500 lbs of medical supplies for war-torn Chiapas	**When alone I am not aware of my race or my sex, both in need of social contexts for definition.** **Maxine Hong Kingston**	**FEBRUARY** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	**APRIL** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Along the Color Line

Education vs. Incarceration



Dr. Manning Marable

Today there are more than 1. 8 million people who are incarcerated in federal facilities, state prisons and local jails across the United States. We now imprison more people than any other country on earth. Since 1980, about one thousand new prisons and jails have been built in the U.S., at the cost of tens of billions of dollars. This elaborate network of coercive institutions is essentially a means of social control for black, Latino, and low income people. It is no accident, for example, that one half of all inmates are black; that one out of every fourteen black adult males, as you are reading this article, are currently in jail or prison; or that over one out of every three African-American males in their twenties are today either in prison or jail, on probation, parole or awaiting trial.

These grim studies reflect a draconian yet strategic decision made by America's political and corporate establishment to redirect billions of dollars away from human needs spending—such as health care, public transportation, job training programs and public housing—toward the construction of a prison-industrial complex that today is destroying millions of lives. Perhaps the most clear example of this is the destructive trade-off between public education and incarceration.

The basic impact on black and Latino young adults had been to make it simultaneously much more difficult to attend college, but much easier to go to prison.

A recent study produced by the Correctional Association of New York and the Washington D.C. based Justice Policy Institute, illustrates that in New York State hundreds of millions of dollars have been stolen from the budgets of public universities and reallocated to prison construction. The report states: "Since fiscal year 1988, New York's public universities have seen their operating budgets plummet by 29 percent while funding for prison has increased by 76 percent. In actual dollars, there has nearly been an equal trade-off, with the Department of Correctional Services receiving a $761 million dollar increase during that time while state funding for New York's city and state university systems has declined by $615 million."

By 1998, New York state was spending nearly twice what it had allocated to run its prison system a decade ago. To pay for that massive expansion, tuitions and fees for students at the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY) had to be dramatically hiked. The New York study found that the total cost for a typical undergraduate student to attend a SUNY school, including tuition, books, room and boards, rose from $7,319 in 1991 to $11,201 by 1997, an increase of 35 percent. The state government also cut its levels of support to CUNY, a system whose students are overwhelmingly black, Latino, working class and poor. Since 1988, the state share of the CUNY budget has fallen from about 77 percent to 49 percent. Tuition and fees for full-time CUNY undergraduates in that decade roughly doubled.

The basic impact on black and Latino young adults had been to make it simultaneously *much more difficult to attend college, but much easier to go to prison.* The New York study found: "There are more blacks (34,809) and Hispanics (22,421) locked up in prison than there are attending SUNY, where there are 27,925 black and 17,845 Hispanic students. Since 1989, there have been more blacks entering the prison system for drug offenses each year than there were graduating from SUNY with undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degrees - combined."

The pattern of schools vs. prisons present in New York exists throughout the country. Thousands of black and Latino young adults in California are denied access to state universities because of the passage of Proposition 209 which destroyed affirmative action. Thousands more have been driven out due to steadily growing costs for tuition and cutbacks in student loans. Meanwhile, hundreds of millions of dollars have been siphoned from the state's education budget and spent on building prisons.

Students for Farmworker Justice

President's Day March and Rally for Farmworker Housing

Joshua Alex & Raul Martinez

Olympia - The President's Day March and Rally for Farmworker Housing was sponsored by a multi-racial coalition of student groups. This action signals our intention to get involved, and stay involved, in an effort to enable farmworkers and their families to live and work with dignity in Washington state -- a goal we proudly share with Governor Gary Locke.

Agriculture, the third-largest industry in the state, accounts for one-fifth of the state's economy. Washington state is world-famous for its agricultural products and ranks #1 nationally in production of apples, asparagus, hops, spearmint, carrots, cherries, raspberries, and pears. Apples are the most lucrative of the tee-fruit industries, producing more than half of the nation's apple -- 5.4 billion pounds in 1997 alone. Apple industry revenues grew from $300 million in 1982 to over a billion dollars by 1995 -- a growth rate of more than 300%.

The richest man in the world lives in Washington state. Much of the fruit and vegetables he consumes are provided by a workforce of almost entirely Mexican farmworkers whose wages fall well below those of any other workforce. It is because of farmworkers that all of us pay less for our agricultural products than any industrialized nation in the world. In effect, each time we buy produce, we are subsidized by the poorest, but one of the most productive, workforces in our state.

The cruel, inescapable irony here is that Washington state may well be one of the most prosperous economic regions in the nation, if not the world. Yet those who feed us live in conditions that most of us would not keep our pets, and definitely not our children.

Annually, hundreds of infants and children of farmworkers in our state live with little protection from nature's elements, immersed in dirt and dust, pestered by swarming insects, threatened by poisonous reptiles, and left to bathe in river water. Others live in filthy, cockroach-infested firetraps where children play in raw sewage that "bubbles from the ground," as described by the mayor of Mattawa, Wash.

How is it that we have arrived at this point? How is it that a civilized or seemingly intelligent society can allow, justify, or sanction such squalid living conditions for thousands in our state who feed us? In asking these questions, it is not our intention to place blame; rather it is to seek understanding and compassion so that we can move from blissful ignorance, or denial, to corrective action.

uncontrolled unregulated agricultural growth, combined with the lack of enforcement of existing laws has brought about an acute farmworker housing crisis.

We believe there is a housing crisis in our state because of uncontrolled unregulated agricultural growth. This growth, combined with the lack of enforcement of existing laws has brought about an acute farmworker housing crisis.

Unregulated Growth

Recently in Washington state's Columbia River Basin near Vantage and Mattawa, fruit orchards have been planted "a thousand acres at a time," as reported by the New York Times (October 28, 1996). The result: millions of fruit-bearing trees stand where there once were thousands, and still more are being planted, some on state-owned land. The state leases thousands of acres of land to growers, but some leases prohibit housing despite the housing crisis. While growth has gone unabated for decades, virtually nothing has been done to ensure that there is an adequate infrastructure or housing for the hard-working men, women and children who prepare and harvest the crops.

Enforcement

The farmworker housing crisis, as Guadalupe Gamboa, regional director of the United Farm Workers, has stated, "is only the most visible manifestation of governmental policies which put financial gain above the interests of people and the environment."

For example, a county jurisdiction places port-a-potties along the banks of the Columbia River, then allows hundreds of farmworkers to live there in direct violation of the federal Agricultural Worker Protection Act. Workers are crammed in decaying, rotting shacks and trailers, 10 and 20 to a unit, but local and state health officials wantonly ignore laws that are intended to protect the health and safety of residents by condemning such facilities.

As students, this shocks our senses because they are not dulled by cynicism or money. We call on citizens in our state to demand more reasoned and balanced policies relative to the agricultural industry. We expect that responsible elected officials can find the courage to enact and enforce laws so that human beings-productive -- human beings -- can live with dignity.

We call on all consumers and residents in the state to demand that our elected representatives adopt long-term policies that benefit workers and protect our environment. Relative to agriculture and other industries, we must hold politicians and public employees to the standard that they are acting in the "state's economic interests" only when the health and safety of workers and the environment are considered part of the equation.

Lastly, the attitudes, ideals, and policies of government officials should be guided by what educators describe as "higher-order thinking." If that is the expectation that educators have for children, surely we can apply it to adults too. With such thinking, we might witness the wisdom and political courage that will lead us to embark on a three- to five-year plan to solve the housing dilemma which tarnishes our state and shames us all.

We should expect no less; we must demand no less because when workers and their children can live and work safely and with dignity, the long-term stability of the agricultural industry and the state's economic well-being are strengthened.

March and Rally Sponsors: Hispanic Organization for Legal Advancement (HOLA), Seattle University; Latino Law Student Association (LLSA), University of Washington:.

Co-sponsors: ACLU UW School of Law Branch; Asian Pacific Islanders Legal Association, SU; Black Student Union, UW; Community Service Office, SU; Filipino American Student Association, UW; First Nations, UW; Hope for Youth Program of El Centro do Ia Raza; Minority Law Students' Association. UW; Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanos do Aztlan (MEChA), SU and UW; Women's Law Caucus, SU.

TELL OUR ADVERTISERS THAT YOU SAW THEIR AD IN WIP!

Up Front

Impeachment: A Postscript

Jerome Johnson

This article originally began last August, when I was having lunch with a good friend who is also a reader. She asked me if I thought Clinton would be impeached, and if I would write about the impeachment effort. I said that I was sure Clinton would be impeached, and that I wanted to write about it, but I also wanted wait until it was over. Particularly since there were new events and changes happening almost daily. But the impeachment effort is over now, and I have a word or two. (One should never disappoint one's readers!)

With the disingenuousness the GOP had become known for, the House proceedings were downplayed as merely an "inquiry, with the House acting as a grand jury, investigating the matter."

The entire impeachment effort was just the latest GOP attempt to neutralize Clinton's presidency. In January 1998, in her "Today Show" interview, Hillary Clinton told Matt Lauer that she believed there is a "conspiracy" to destroy her husband's presidency. I don't know about a solid conspiracy, but I agree that ever since Clinton was first elected there has been a strong consensus in the GOP that they would do everything in their power to obstruct, delay, denounce, neutralize and negate Clinton's policies at every turn. On every Clinton policy initiative, job appointee or budget issue they've fought it in every way. The right wing of the party, led by fanatics like Bob Barr (R-GA) and the House Majority Whip, Tom DeLay, and until recently under the odious Newt Gingrich, were especially strident. Health care reform? NO! shouted the Republicans, and beamed Harry & Louise into American living rooms threatening a socialist revolution led by a power-starved First Lady. Lani Guinier to head the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division? NO! shouted the Republicans, she's a "Quota Queen." Military spending? MORE! shouted the Republicans, even though Clinton's defense budgets rose while America is at peace.

Instead of training and spare parts and pay raises, which the military asked for, the GOP allocated money for bombers and other equipment the Pentagon said it didn't need. Iraq? BOMB! shouted the Republicans, then claimed it wasn't enough to bomb and that Clinton was just doing it to divert attention anyway. And the list goes on.

As Ken Starr whipped his investigation toward the impeachment procedure, the GOP took on a smug "Father Knows Best" attitude. Polls, letters, e-mail, calls to congressional offices as well as TV and radio talk shows continued to pour in all year. As loudly as possible, the majority of Americans sent this message:

1) We know the President lied about his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

2) We're VERY angry and disgusted, but it's really his and his family's business.

3) He didn't hurt the country and he's doing a good job, so....

4) LEAVE HIM ALONE AND LET'S ALL GO BACK TO WORK!

The GOP answered in their sanctimonious, condescending tones, "We don't care what you say, and we don't care what you want. We have a duty. We can't do what you ask, even though you elected us and we're supposed to work for you. And because we have the power, and we hate Clinton because we really never got over the fact that Reagan had to stop being president, and we won't rest until we control the country BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY." And so all summer and autumn, the impeachment process gained momentum. In September, the Starr Report came out and the Republicans leaped onto it like barracuda. Despite public protest, they released it immediately to hurt and embarrass Clinton as much as possible, hoping its sordid details would turn public opinion in their favor and make the impeachment process popular. When that didn't work they claimed that in the interest of wrapping the case up fast, hearings in the House would be limited. To protect us from the trashy details they were so quick to release, Lewinsky and others would not be called. With the disingenuousness the GOP had become known for, the House proceedings were downplayed as merely an "inquiry, with the House acting as a grand jury, investigating the matter."

The truth was, the House never investigated anything—Ken Starr did that, if one could call his McCarthy-style witch hunt an investigation. With sickening glee, the House Republicans seized on the reprehensible Starr Report and shouted, "Here's the beef! Clinton's guilty and we know it's true because Ken Starr says so." Like many fanatics, they were so sure of their "case" that they hardly bothered to support it with evidence. They took Starr's "conclusions" and interpreted it to suit them, which was not hard for them to do.

Then they rushed to start the impeachment process, confident that the more "information" alleged, public opinion would swing their way. They didn't even bother to coordinate with the Republicans (or the rest of the grownups) in the Senate.

Meanwhile, Americans got more and more fed up. In November they rolled up their sleeves and said, "Fine. If they won't listen to us and censure Clinton and stop this bullshit, we'll use the Ultimate Weapon and stop it for them." So they went to their voting booths and ousted several Republicans, and continued to call and write and protest before Thanksgiving, then went off shopping in the belief that their voice had been heard At Last and that this would be over by the New Year.

Instead, Gingrinch and Livingston resigned and the Impeachment Express hurtled forward, with the Constitution cut into the shape of a fig leaf. As public rage mounted the Republicans' self-serving bravado turned to miserable whining. "The President is the nation's top law enforcement officer and must be held accountable, " they said. Like myself most Americans were surprised to hear this, since by the Constitution the Supreme Court interprets the laws of the land and the Attorney General is the nation's top cop. The President doesn't carry a badge and doesn't have police responsibilities.

"But the President is Commander in Chief, and should be held to the same criteria as our military personnel—like Kelly Flinn and others," they complained. However, they didn't mention that the framers of the Constitution they'd wrapped themselves in had purposely made the CinC a civilian. Moreover, unlike regular military personnel, the President serves at the pleasure of the people and has comprehensive national security responsibilities.

"And what will we tell the children?" they wailed. This was the weakest excuse of all. The Republicans were the ones who had released the Starr Report on the Internet right after school, the same Internet they want to censor. Americans know that the Republicans don't really care about children, because if they did we wouldn't have the highest child poverty rate in the developed world. We told the children the same thing that Bob Livingston told his family about his infidelity: Dad had an affair with a woman who wasn't Mom and then lied about it. It happens every day around the world, and will continue to happen as long there are humans in relationships.

"But every other citizen would be locked up, and the President is not above the law," the GOP grumbled. I sure wish these law-abiding Republicans had been around when Ronald Reagan and his officials lied repeatedly about Iran/Contra while shredding evidence. And "every other citizen" would not have had secret grand jury testimony released (excuse me, leaked) to the public, nor his own videotaped testimony made public. Other citizens would not have been the target of an obsessed zealot with an unlimited budget, an open license and accountable to no one. Other citizens would not have their case aired worldwide for months, severely hurting his ability to do his job. And other citizens would not be judged by 100 of their colleagues, some enemies and some friends, an unsequestered jury whose members were interviewed in the media about the case every day.

In the end, justice and reasons of sorts prevailed, and Clinton will remain in office.

I believe he should. This is not Iran/Contra or Watergate, where impeachment was fully warranted.

As we study this situation, and await the decision of history, some things are clear even now:

We must acknowledge that a dangerous precedent has been set for our nation and our system. The founders of the country soundly rejected the parliamentary system of government they had rebelled against, and tried to put safeguards in the Constitution to prevent political coups d'etat. A president or any other official should be removed for "High crimes and misdemeanors," not because the opposition party(ies) didn't like him and/or disagreed with the president's agenda. But now, that standard has been challenged. Partisan wrath has become more important then the will of the American people, and partisan power—having the votes to control committees like House Judiciary as well as the House itself—can combine with self-righteousness and hypocrisy and hate to threaten our society and defy the wishes of our people. Every legitimate tool—phone calls, e-mail, letters, polls, direct contact—do not matter if there's a Constitutional Duty and Father Knows Best. This is a terrible threat to the shreds of freedom and democracy we still have left.

And what of the future? Will the Democrats act out of revenge as soon as they can, even to the nation's detriment? Are we doomed to cycles of endless partisan bickering, just for the sake of one-upmanship, while our nation languishes?

Will Republicans try again—possibly soon, using allegations of campaign finance abuses and Chinese money to attack Al Gore?

Many have said that there are only two heroines in this story—Hillary and Chelsea Clinton. But there is another, and her name is Monica Lewinsky. Throughout this situation, I have been consistently impressed by her strength, poise, and silence.

She is a fine example of how one should handle a crisis like this. For more than a year her reputation, character, and good name have been dragged through the mud worldwide. She was ruthlessly exploited by the Republicans and Clinton's other enemies, yet handled their interrogations and insults and humiliation with a lady's grace. I sincerely wish her well.

In Nigeria, Gen. Abubakar continues to guide a nation toward democracy.

In Sierra Leone, delicate negotiations go on as Freetown burns.

In Jasper, TX, a defiant John King goes on trial for the lynching of James Byrd, Jr.

And in Thurston County, a community joyously celebrates Black History Month.

A Teen's View On Impeachment

This letter was submitted to by Rory Henneck to the Peninsula Daily News in Port Angeles with a note reading "I am a teen and perhaps this should be a teen point of view, not a letter to the editor. Thanks". PDN declined publishing it.

I find the recent rash of editorials concerning Clinton's impeachment ridiculous in their uncalled-for outrage against the President. In fact, judging by the vehemence of some of Clinton's critics, one would think that the President had slept with their spouses and daughters which we know isn't true (Clinton's expenditure of air miles traveling to the Middle East normally prevents him from venturing to Sea-Tac, let alone Fairchild). All joking aside, the President's offense - perjury - is worthy of impeachment, but whose business is this lie?

Since our House of Representatives has communicated that they believe it is indeed the business of the nation, I expect for the coming century more corrupt executives - police officers, federal agents, attorney generals - to be held accountable in court for their sexual indiscretions when accused of any crime. Maybe you don't expect this; maybe it's a case of the buck stopping at Clinton; maybe other Presidents have lied and we have allowed ourselves to be deluded because it was only taxes, or drug money for Contras, or propaganda for Cold War, and it wasn't under oath.

Let me suggest something novel: this squalid, salacious, sensationalist proceeding is the failure of the American people; and nothing happening on Capitol Hill is going to help this country heal until we the people pull our collective heads out of the sand. We had failed as true Americans long before Clinton failed as an American President because we ignorantly assigned our control to this pack of ineffectual, power-hungry zealots we call Congress and then we buried our heads again. We are all to confident that these honorable men are watching out for our interests; well, if our interests are to see them re-elected, then they are doing a bang-up job.

For those that think the economy is fine and the stock market is high so the people needn't worry, do you think history will remember us for that fact?

For those that believe the Grand Old Party has triumphed over a President that harms American morale and military, do you realize that these majority legislators are the people drafting these bogus foreign policy that allows tremendous amounts of money to flow an Gulf daily and is altering the most promising agreement we have created with both Korean governments, China and Japan? I have been on Capitol Hill at the hearings and I am appalled at the ignorance of our Republican policymakers who would boost U.S. presence in the Gulf and in South Korea and did pass a $9 billion defense budget increase, yet stolidly resist a bill that would increase pension benefits to retired members of the armed services. And this while U.S.. personnel already appear overworked as the military clumsily straddles an uncooperative world. Look at the budget at www.access.gov/su-docs/budget99/, see for yourself. Clinton is a symptom. He did not build this faltering hegemony, he inherited it from us and our elected officials. President Superman and Vice-President Albert Schweitzer could not reverse the social trends and geopolitical realities that we face as a nation at the end of the American century. This impeachment will only teach children to gather dirt on their enemies and tell the truth about their sex lives under oath, no more.

We the people must look past the symptom, address, and remedy the underlying problems of ignorance towards our political duty as Americans and want of political power. We the people must be our own watchdogs because we do not own the media, the media possesses us with insipid entertainment and vicarious enjoyment. We the people lack basic accountability, but maybe if we regained it, we can save this nation, and a few cruise missiles.

Rory is currently living in Washington DC, with homes in Olympia (with dad) and Port Angeles (with mom).

End Corporate Dominance by Establishing Genuine Democracy

Jeff Sowers

Imagine that you are kidnapped and that your abductor is planning to murder you, but gives you the chance to win your freedom by playing a game, say Poker (it doesn't have to be poker). But in this game the rules have been changed to give your opponent a vastly unfair advantage (the deck is marked). In this circumstance, would not your immediate reaction be to question the rules of the game? Would you not try your best to convince the kidnapper to play a fair game, so that you would at least have a reasonable chance of winning?

This, my fellow persons of conscious, is exactly the situation that we find ourselves in with regards to our democracy. Yet strangely enough, we continue to play this political "game" without even bothering to question the rules. And so we play, and we lose. Again and again and again. Once in a while we might win. And by playing we probably don't lose as bad as we would if we didn't play at all. But we lose most of the time. If your tired of losing, and you would like to start winning, then its time to think about challenging and changing the rules we are playing by.

What do I mean by losing? These "losses" manifest themselves in human suffering and death, in environmental devastation, in the tearing up of our planet like there's no tomorrow, in the loss of the moral integrity of a community dependent on a sweatshop economy and filling its gas tanks at the expense of human life and dignity. Every child born in poverty, every mother on welfare who is disparaged, every worker who is "downsized", every below living wage job, every union that is busted, every species that goes extinct, every child who dies in Iraq, every war that is waged is a loss. And of course I could go on and on and on. You know the situation. It's not pretty. Of course what are losses for humanity are wins for the large corporations who reap tremendous profits at the price of human suffering and planetary destruction.

What would it be like to win? Winning is a society where all workers are paid a living wage, no child grows up in poverty, a world free of sweatshops, a healthy environment, a sustainable economy, quality education for all, universal health care, affordable housing, no war, and a bright future. All this and more is in the common good. All this interferes with higher profits for large corporations. And all this makes up a general vision of society that the vast majority of Americans share and desire.

So what is the problem!? If the vast majority share a "common good" vision, what is going so awfully wrong? Politics is the problem. The corruption of democracy is the problem. It is tempting to blame the inert and apathetic masses, but that misses the target. The fact is the masses are disgusted with the political process and are ready to support changes. Most people feel incredibly powerless and don't know what to do about it. If there were some big master plan, some "super package" legislation that we could put together that was guaranteed to create the world we all want, then of course we would all get behind it and pass it and then everything would be great. But unfortunately the world is far to complex, and we understand it far to little for that to work. We must realize the vision one step at a time, one law at a time, and one economic policy at a time. And that's where the politics comes in. On each and every thing people have differing opinions on how to get to the vision. But that's OK. That's to be expected. That's what a democratic process allows you to work through. It is through the political process, the democratic process, the family meeting writ large, that we are supposed to be able to come to a consensus about how best to move forward in the name of the common good. We cannot expect a magical consensus to occur among the population without a working democratic process in place to build that consensus, especially when there is so much misinformation out there.

But we are not able to do that, because the process is so overwhelmed and manipulated by powerful transnational corporate interests who are vigorously pursuing a very different vision than the common good. Their vision is that of greater and greater profits. Their vision perceives human beings and the environment as expendable commodities to be exploited when convenient, or destroyed if in the way. These forces rule the democratic process. These forces are the opponents in the game of democracy. These forces have ingeniously stacked the deck against us, they have tilted the playing field far in their favor, when they should not even be allowed on the field at all.

The thing to understand is that we do not have to accept this. We don't have to play a political game we're doomed to lose. We can change the rules if we're willing to make an effort to do it. How much sense does it make not to question the rules? How much sense does it make to keep on playing and losing?

Let me be clear that I'm not suggesting that we stop fighting on the issues, and only focus on the rules. Absolutely not. It's the issues we want to win on, so we can't stop fighting for those. But as part of the struggle we must also make an effort to take back (or rather, just take) our democracy and make it work for us, as opposed to large corporations. If we all spent a little effort doing this, we would all have more success on the issues that we have specialized in, no matter what we are working on (assuming your working for the common good).

So where should we begin at the local level? Passing an Olympia Advisory Measure on Corporations and Democracy would be a good place to start.

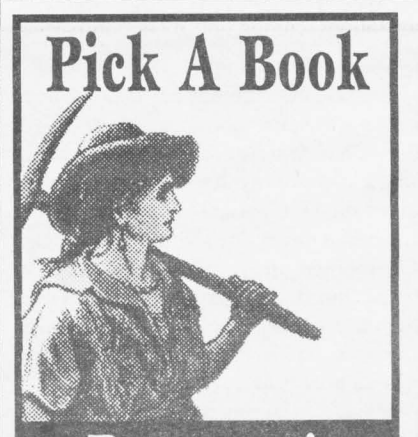
What things can we do to make our democracy start working for us? First, the process must begin at the local level. Democracy is necessarily a "from the bottom up" process. Right now our democracy is rotten all the way to the core, right down to the neighborhood level. So that is where we must begin. But if we can achieve popular democracy in Olympia, we will set an example for others to follow. When democracy starts to happen at the local level in many places, we can start to make it happen at the state and national levels. Thus, by setting an example today in Olympia, we will be leading the way toward asserting certain sovereignty at the state and then national levels.

So where should we begin at the local level? Passing an Olympia Advisory Measure on Corporations and Democracy would be a good place to start. Olympians Concerned About Democracy (OCAD) has created a draft of this measure that is currently being discussed. (You can read this draft on our website: www.olywa.net/ocad) This draft, inspired by Arcata Measure F passed last November, calls on the Olympia City Council to sponsor two town hall meetings on the question, "can we have democracy when large corporations wield so much power and wealth under law?", and then asks the city government to immediately act to establish an Olympia Citizens Assembly.

An Olympia Citizens Assembly would be a deliberative democratic body open to all citizens. It would establish a neutral, public institution where citizens could come together once per month or so to address the important problems of the day to reach consensus and pass resolutions, which would then be forwarded to the city council for passage (or veto). In a later article, I will elaborate on the Olympia Citizens Assembly, and the historical importance popular assemblies have played in the development of democracy, from the African kgotlas of Botswana, from the Greek citizen assemblies of the 5th century BC, to the beginnings of our own democracy with town hall meetings in New England. I will also discuss why reestablishing such popular assemblies at the local level is absolutely critical in the movement to create genuine democracy.

In the meantime, I ask you to please join with OCAD in this important movement. We will be holding Monthly General Meetings where all are invited to participate in directing the efforts of OCAD. At the meeting on March 28th (see calendar) we will be voting on whether to approve a final draft of The Olympia Measure to present to the City Council for passage into law. All are welcome to attend this meeting and offer their valued input.

Note: Jeff Sowers is a member of Olympians Concerned About Democracy (OCAD), but his opinions to not necessarily represent those of OCAD.



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A Brief History of Labor Parties in America

Chris Stegman

For over 200 years the vast majority of working class families in America have had little in the way of genuine independent political representation, and little, if any, economic democracy at the work place. The two party system has ruled largely on behalf of the wealthy and powerful landholding, business and financial elites whose primary motivation is production and investment for (mega) private profits and (in this century) control of the world markets for the same. Such is the ongoing nature of the U.S. political economy at the end the 20th century.

There have been a few exceptions. In the 1860's (following the civil war) William Sylvis, president of the Molders' Union, helped organize the National Labor Union which helped form the Labor Reform Party. Organized, in part, around the demand for an eight hour day the LRP won 21 of 80 seats in the Massachusetts election of 1869.

The American Federation of (craft) Labor was founded in 1881. In the 1880's the Knights of Labor and other labor parties became active around the demands for a graduated income tax, gov't ownership of the means of transportation and communication, abolition of private police, state insurance, a national monetary system and other reforms—all measures designed to check corporate power, improve living conditions and expand union/labor power.

The National Union Labor Party of 1881 was an amalgam of the Greenback Party (formed around currency reform, against the bankers, for cheap credit), farmer's organizations, unions, anti-monopoly parties, socialists and others.

This was a prelude to the formation, in 1891, of the People's Party, also known as Populists. Their ranks included Eugene Debs, the imprisoned leader of the Pullman railroad workers strike, one of the greatest labor struggles in American history. The People's Party allied itself with the Colored Farmer's National Alliance which had 1.25 million members in 12 states. Their program included the fight for the eight hour day, compulsory public education, safety inspections and municipal ownership of utilities.

The Populists entered the 1881 elections with fervor and came out with 10 Representative and five Senators to Congress, governorships in 4 states and 354 representatives to legislatures in 19 states. Their main competitors were the Democratic Party and the president of the AFL, Samuel Gompers who opposed subordinating unions to politics.

In 1896, after Debs withdrew his candidacy for President, the Populists were co-opted by the Democratic Party and millionaire silver mine owners, who conspired with wealthy farmers to transform the party into a single-issue movement for unlimited silver coinage (as opposed to the Republicans and the gold standard).

This led to Populist support for pro-silver Democratic Party candidate, Nebraska Candidate William Jennings Bryan, who opposed William McKinley, a wealthy Ohio lawyer, regarded as the candidate of wage cuts and unionbusting.

The Republicans McKinley, who outspent the Democrats by a factor of 20 to 1, won by less than a million votes. After making a devil's bargain with the Democrats, there was no way back to independence and the People's Party dissipated. Without an independent program, the AFL by default became mired in the corruption and big business orientation of the major parties—which put big business in firm control of the nation's policies.

Two months after the 1896 election, Debs announced he was a socialist. The Socialist Party continued the Populists' crusade against monopoly capitalist domination, and helped shape the Progressive Era of the early 20th century.

In the early part of the century the Socialist Party continued the debate with AFL President Samuel Gompers on independent political action. Politically aware unionists were among the 897,000 voters in 1912 and 918,000 in 1920 who casts their ballots for the only consistently pro-labor candidate for President, Socialist Party leader, Eugene Debs.

the organized labor movement has been undergoing a fundamental internal struggle for increased democracy and for a progressive political agenda

U.S. entry into WWI halted the Progressive movement. A strike wave followed the end of the war—450,000 miners struck in 1919 (as did 350,000 steel workers in 10 states) and a general strike shut down Seattle the same year.

Big business moved aggressively to promote its own agenda. Strikes were crushed, a 'red scare' drove Socialists out of unions, Wobblies were murdered in the Northwest and union membership fell rapidly in the early 1920's. And workers again turned to independent political action.

In 1921 the Railroad unions called a Conference on Progressive Political Action. The CPPA united labor unions, farmers, socialists, women's groups, the NAACP, religiously based social services and welfare advocates and others behind the 1924 Presidential candidacy of renegade (Republican) Wisconsin senator Robert LaFollette.

Responding to rank and file pressure, the AFL abandoned its old policy long enough to endorse LaFollette's candidacy. Despite sabotage and terror campaigns waged by the Republican Party, LaFollette's Progressives polled almost 5 million votes—but only 17% of the total which prompted the railroad unions to leave and the coalition to collapse.

In the 1930's, mass organization of basic industry, spearheaded by the Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO) and the battle for labor law and other basic reforms, revived the independent political action of labor as a potent force. But the depression, along with the left's (including the Communist Party/USA) coalition with FDR's progressive 'New Deal' legislation in the 30's led to organized labor's co-optation into the reform wing of the Democratic Party.

With Roosevelt's death and Truman's election in 1945, at the end of WWII, the New Deal was out and Wall Street was in. Another strike wave ensued, and Truman became the nation's #1 strikebreaker. Big business rewrote the Wagner Labor Act and a Republican majority in Congress passed the infamous Taft-Hartley Act.

And momentum was once again building in the American labor movement for a break with the Democratic Party when Henry Wallace, the outspoken pro-labor Democratic Party Secretary of Commerce, announced his candidacy for the presidency in 1948 on a independent program, heavily influenced by the CPUSA dominated leadership of the United Electrical union—the third largest within the CIO—which became known as the 'New Progressive Party'.

But the big business driven anti-communist 'Cold War' witch-hunts were on and tremendous pressure was brought to bear on the CIO leadership which led to the CIO's Executive Board to declare support for the Democratic Party mandatory for all CIO unions. In effect, the CIO endorsed the Cold War.

Although 11 international CIO unions opposed this move, only five ended up endorsing Wallace's candidacy. UE's president became chair of the Progressive Party and UE's political action director was 'loaned' to the Wallace campaign. The lack of united labor support, along with the Cold War atmosphere doomed the new party's chances from the outset and Henry Wallace polled just 2.3 % of the total vote.

With the exception of the 1960's, the last 48 years has been the 'American Century' with the U.S. ruling elites leading the (anti-communist/socialist, counter revolutionary) Cold War against the Soviet Union/Eastern Bloc, Peoples China, Cuba, Vietnam, Chile, Angola, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Grenada, et. al. and of U.S. domination of the global economic and military spheres with the bulk of the organized labor movement (AFL-CIO) leadership remaining firmly in the political camp of the pro-Cold War Democratic Party.

On the heals of the Civil Rights movement led by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and Dr. Martin Luther King in the 1950's, a mass movement against the Vietnam War sparked a plethora of other liberation movements amongst youth, women, blacks, Latinos, Native Americans and many other marginalized or oppressed groups e.g. Students for a Democratic Society, Women's Liberation movement, Black Panther Party, American Indian Movement, La Raza, United Farmworkers, etc.

But the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 signaled the decline of these radical single issue (or oppressed group) movements and many of these non-class based activist leaders and groups were co-opted into the Democratic Party—e.g. Jesse Jackson, Tom Hayden/Jane Fonda, Bobby Seale, Gloria Steinem/NOW, etc. where they remain to this day.

On another front, since the mid-70's, and especially with the end of the Cold War, the organized labor movement has been undergoing a fundamental internal struggle for increased democracy and for a progressive political agenda, albeit largely still tied to the Democratic Party machine, which culminated in the newly elected leadership of the AFL-CIO and the Teamsters—although Ron Carey was ousted from leadership of the Teamsters last year, after the successful UPS strike, by a joint business/gov't/court effort leading to the election of James Hoffa, Jr.

The new Labor Party of America is Set to Organize!

Alongside the recent democratic resurgence in the American labor movement, a group called Labor Party Advocates, led by Tony Mazocchi, a leader of the Atomic, Chemical and Oil Workers Union, spent over 10 years organizing the newly arrived Labor Party of America (LPA) which was founded by over 1400 elected delegates at a convention in Cleveland, Ohio in June 1996.

The LPA held it's first constitutional convention last November and now has over 10,000 dues paying members and the endorsement of seven international unions and several hundred local unions representing over one million organized workers. It seeks to organize and mobilize the millions of good, decent, disenfranchised people of this country to build a social movement around a progressive agenda which includes ending corporate welfare and dominance of elections, trade policy and the media.

Through a democratic process, the delegates at last Novembers convention decided to wage campaigns in the coming years for a Workplace Bill of Rights, a Constitutional Quarantee to a Job at a Living Wage (28th Amendment), a Fair Trade Policy (rejecting NAFTA, GATT, WTO and MAI), Universal Access to Quality Health Care (an end to HMO's and private insurance profiteering) and Protecting Social Security (against privatization).

The Labor Party stands for a Just Transition Movement to protect jobs AND the environment, an end to ALL forms of bigotry, a more equitable taxation system, the repeal of the anti-labor Taft-Hartley laws, a shorter work week at no loss in pay, a revitilized public sector, the elimination of unnecessary and wasteful military spending with resources redirected towards providing for quality education, housing, expanded mass transit and day care for ALL (for starters). International solidarity with the working class and oppressed of other countries is a fundamental principle of the LPA.

While the LPA has plans to run candidates on all levels on it's full program with the ultimate goal of winning political power it will begin to do so only after a level of party organization and recruitment has been acheived, locally, regionally and statewide.

The newly formed South Sound Organizing Committee of the Labor Party held it's first meeting on Feb. 8th and plans to hold regular monthly meetings on the first Sunday of each month at 2pm. For more information or to find out how to join the Labor Party call 705-3528 or email: cstegman@olywa.net.

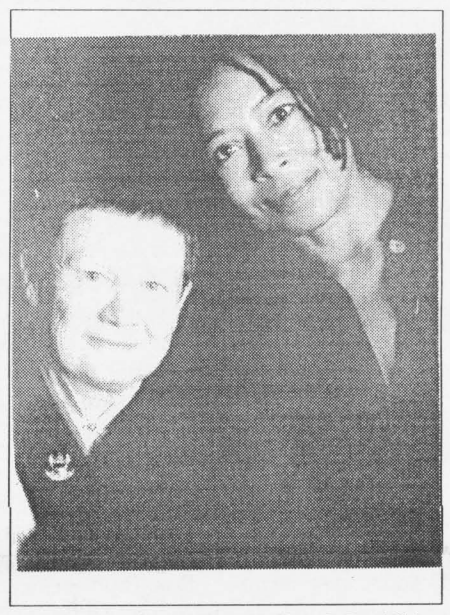
Women Do This Everyday!

Israeli and Palestinian women prepare a display of peace doves on the border between East and West Jerusalem

Diane Greene Lent

Salvadoran women continue the struggle for a dignified living.

Muckraker Mother Jones



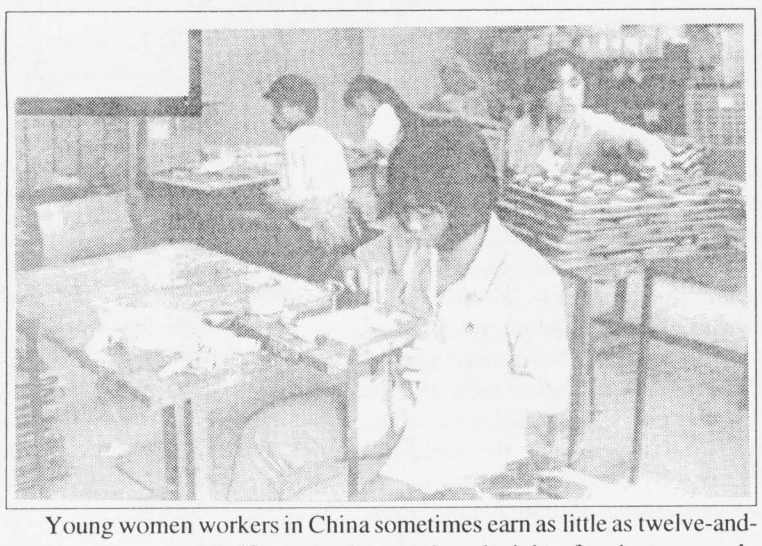
Novelist Alice Walker & Buddhist Teacher Pema Chodron

Novelist Marge Piercy

Poet, writer, teacher, and activist June Jordan

Progressive Era Labor Organizer Mary Kenney O'Sullivan

Black Panther and Exiled Activist Assata Shakur



Young women workers in China sometimes earn as little as twelve-and-a-half cents an hour and work eighty-four hours a week.

♀ Zapatistas

Part Two of a Two Part Interview

Outlaw Poverty, Not Prostitutes! Talking With Sex Radical Feminist Carol Leigh aka Scarlot Harlot

Wendy C. Ortiz

Excerpts in italics or quotation marks from Thanks ma. by Scarlot Harlot from Uncontrollable Bodies: Testimonies of Identity and Culture (copyright Bay Press, Seattle, WA 1994)

"I'm not one to discount the relationships between imagery and action, but sluts and whores and erotic entertainers are not the enemy of the matriarchy."

WIP: From your experience, how would you describe the current state of the sex workers' movement, and what do you think is its potential?

CL: There's a division in the way that women are looking at prostitution. One of the issues is that there are women organizing in two camps, two general camps, from what I can see. There are women organizing against prostitution and sex work, against pornography, wanting to close down the strip clubs and wanting, basically, to close down the sex industry and women organizing for labor rights and for workers' rights within the industry. So I see two very, very separate approaches.

The most problematic aspects of prostitution are in situations with poverty. A lot of times people in that situation may be looking for alternatives or may be looking for support or safety or other routes if there are no alternatives.

Statistics on Prostitution (based on studies compiled through the 1980s and reflect current trends)

*The National Task Force on Prostitution suggests that over one million people in the US have worked as prostitutes in the US, or about 1% of American women. (Priscilla Alexander, Prostitution: A Difficult Issue for Feminists, (in Frederique Delacoste and P. Alexander, Sex Work: Writings by Women in the Sex Industry, San Francisco: Cleis Press, 1987.)

*Average prostitution arrests include 70% female prostitutes, 20% male prostitutes and 10% customers. A disproportionate number of prostitutes arrested are women of color, and although a minority of prostitutes are women of color, a large majority of those sentenced to jail are women of color. (ibid, p. 196)

*The US Dept. of Health consistently reports that only 3-5% of the sexually transmitted disease in this country is related to prostitution (compared with 30-35% among teenagers). There is no statistical indication in the US that prostitutes are vectors of HIV. (Lambert, Bruce, AIDS in Prostitutes, Not as Prevalent as Believed, Studies Find; New York Times, September 20, 1988. Numerous sources in the U.S. confirm the fact that prostitutes do not spread AIDS).

*Violence is one of the major problems for women and prostitutes...one report citing 60% of the abuse against street prostitutes perpetrated by clients, 20% by police and 20% in domestic relationships (Margo St. James, What's A girl like you...?, Claude Jaget, Prostitutes, Our Life. Bristol: Falling Water Press, 1980.)...A recent study showed that, in cases of (non-domestic) rape and abuse, 5% of the perpetrators identified themselves as police officers, often producing badges and police identification (this does not include actual cases of police misconduct and rape) (Mimi Silbert, Sexual Assault of Prostitutes. San Francisco: Delancy Street Foundation, 1981).

*Average arrest, court and incarceration costs amount to nearly $2000.00 per arrest. Cities spend an average 7.5 million dollars on prostitution every year, ranging from 1 million dollars (Memphis) to 23 million dollars (New York).

(Julie Pearl, The Highest Paying Customers: America's Cities and The Cost of Prostitution Control. Hastings Law Journal, April 1987. pp769-800).

(Master Source: Prostitutes' Education Network)

Certainly, there are small groups of dancers, who, like in Alaska, I think they've unionized, I think with the AFL-CIO, so you can connect to the Exotic Dancer's Alliance, I share a website with them. So then lots of strippers' organizations contact them when they're doing labor issues.

The movement as it stands is very well connected, in terms of prostitutes' rights organizing, but it's very small, and we've really done a lot. You know, Camille Paglia, who isn't necessarily one of my idols—but she said something that was penetratingly true, I read her say once that sex workers need to not necessarily always try to get the legitimization of sex workers, but it would be important for us to also take advantage of our bad girl images, of the ways we are contrasting to other social values, the advantages that we get from being outside and being outlaws. I thought that was interesting. And now, it is always a debate within our movement. It's difficult to get us organized to promote some kind of decriminalization.

The sex radical feminist movement, that's what I would call the movement that I'm part of. People have models like Carol Queen, Pat Califia, like Annie Sprinkle, like me, and one might say that we are the sex radical feminists. So I think that there is a movement, and there are several little movements within ours, like cultural identities...I know that a lot of young women's' identities and pursuits are formed by these parts of society.

"...Prostitutes' issues and images became the center of my life. I'm not saying I loved the tricks or the work. It can be fun, especially if you like things like skydiving or hang gliding. But what I liked was getting this insider's view, this secret story to tell. The silence of prostitutes became overbearingly loud. Suddenly, I was surrounded by mute and righteous women. and brazen, sexual women and poor women, and junkies and addicted women, and young women who couldn't fight back against rape, and women of other races, and mothers, and women who used to be men, and women who used to be secretaries, and wild, curious women who needed money, just like me..."

WIP: So what can you suggest for activists who want to support prostitutes' rights movements?

CL: It's interesting that Olympia is almost like a bedroom community, or you don't really do sex work in Olympia very much.

WIP: It's my understanding that there are sex workers here that we aren't aware of.

CL: And still, evidently, there's tons of sex work in Seattle.

WIP: Well, because we are the capitol, and there are legislators, lobbyists, etc. coming through all the time, there's some speculation about sex work we don't know about.

CL: Yeah. You don't have any escort services listed...

WIP: What can activists anywhere, here or outside of Olympia, do to support the movement?

CL: One of the best things probably is to bring people in who have that experience into your communities. Most people I'm talking about in the sex radical feminist movement are artists, and I think it's important to invite people to town to talk. I think that's one of the best ways to inform the rest of the community, because there's so much to learn.

Also I believe that I'd just encourage people to look into conditions for people who are living in poverty; I think there's a lot of advocacy that can be done there. The most problematic aspects of prostitution are in situations with poverty. A lot of times people in that situation may be looking for alternatives or may be looking for support or safety or other routes if there are no alternatives. Look into what their local communities of women are needing. Work with the needle exchange programs.

And there are times, other situations when sex workers, or call girls, may not want to be discovered or outreached to and it's important to respect that.

I would encourage young people interested in this issue to look at the laws in their state, to join the ACLU, to move their agenda towards these issues. Because the ACLU has in fact endorsed decriminalization, but that emphasis isn't there in most of the chapters. That's something that people could address. The National Organization for Women also supports decriminalization. If people are involved with any kind of mainstream organization, bring it up, and try to have people read materials by people who are working for prostitutes' rights.

It's difficult for people to talk about. And sometimes they decide it's so controversial that they can't talk about it, because it's too hot a topic. And that's what a young person who hasn't done this activism will make confront. It's a little scary, and it takes a lot of courage, so I would suggest to women and men, who are looking to do that kind of reform, should also contact me and other sex workers on the internet. Get connected and talk and get some assistance in terms of support. You know, you need a lot of emotional support, because saying you support sex workers' rights means that you're the devil, you're like the devil, so you're definitely demonized. You can be demonized just for suggesting that prostitutes should have rights. So prostitutes' rights are sort of incidental.

"I refuse to go on living in the patriarchy. I'm checking out."

Excuses, Excuses...

I am Carol Leigh, also known as the Scarlot Harlot. I've been working as a prostitute for fifteen years. Although I am a self-proclaimed whore and a rebel, I have a fierce appetite for love and approval. Naturally, I developed a career as an artist. Perhaps a little information about my background will help you understand how a nice, middle class woman like me could wind up a famous slut.

My parents emigrated from Europe before the Holocaust, surviving in New York City's garment business. My parents were both outcasts. This shared status, and an admiration for Trotsky, formed the basis for their partnership. Disenchanted with social activism, they abandoned the Socialist Workers party and turned to child rearing. The discussion in my house was intellectual and political, mostly centering around a critique of capitalism from a socialist perspective and a critique of socialism from a capitalist point of view. Most of all, my parents indoctrinated me with the notion that nonconformity was the loftiest state. They regarded me as a magnificent experiment and raised me in strict adherence to the progressive principles of Dr. Spock.

"Think for yourself and marry a doctor," was my mom's advice. I was perfect. smart, and well-behaved... until puberty. I fell from my pedestal at the age of fifteen, when I wanted to date (not fuck) a boy who wasn't Jewish. My parents said no, and I became an outlaw. My sudden fall from grace was unjust, exposing the tenuousness of my good reputation. I abandoned my role as an obedient child. It was 1966 or '67. I would find love, make love, and be free. I was a flower child and I would give it away...

...Prostitution holds a potent combination of survivalism and victimization, a perfect recipe for my anarchist's cookbook. One press of the cookie cutter and one more intellectual trollop. It was my fate. I was destined to become a sexy monster-thrust onto the battlefield of sexual politics-cast now as a victim, a survivor, and a traitor to my gender...

excerpted from Uncontrollable Bodies: Testimonies of Identity and Culture (copyright Bay Press, Seattle, WA 1994)

Carol Leigh
PO Box 210256
San Francisco, CA 94121
penet@bayswan.org
website: http://www.bayswan.org

National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers: Wed. March 10

Refuse and Resist

What You Can Do:

Find Your Providers: There are two local providers: Eastside Women's Health and Sound Choice, both in Olympia.

Outreach Ideas: Call local pro-choice organizations, student organizations, women's studies depts., pro-choice churches and synagogues, other social justice groups and friends. Coordinate your work so that both providers in our city are appreciated.

Action Ideas: Let local providers know you're on call. Volunteer to escort patients. Support actions year-round! Plan a reception, dinner, or other event to honor providers and thank them. Send a postcard or note of appreciation to the clinics. Organize friends, church, or synagogue to send messages of support. Circulate cards in your office to be sent to providers.

Publicity: Write letters to the editor of local newspapers like the Olympian or the Cooper Point Journal. Call radio talk shows. E-mail your friends to alert them of this day. Sponsor public service announcements on your local radio station, like KAOS.

Ways Abortion Providers Have Been Appreciated:

Indiana, 1996: Indiana NOW got flowers at a discount from a sympathetic florist, and sent them to all 9 abortion providers in the state.

Olympia, 1998: A video about abortion rights was shown at the local library. At this showing, thank-you cards were distributed so that supporters could privately thank local providers. Cards were delivered or mailed on March 10 to Eastside Women's Health.

Chicago, 1998: 100 people had a reception at a restaurant where more than $1,000 was raised to assist in the reopening of the New Woman All Women Clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, which was bombed 6 weeks previously. The room was decorated with a large mural that depicted resistance to clinic violence, created by local visual and performance artists, especially for the event. Abortion providers spoke and were honored as people rose to their feet to applaud them for their courage.

Hampshire and Smith Colleges, 1998: Students set up tables on campus to collect signatures on cards ready for students to sign, which were sent to local clinics later. Also, a petition was signed directing the American Medical Association to push for teaching abortion procedure in medical schools. They also collected many signatures on a large banner, which was sent to the Birmingham clinic.

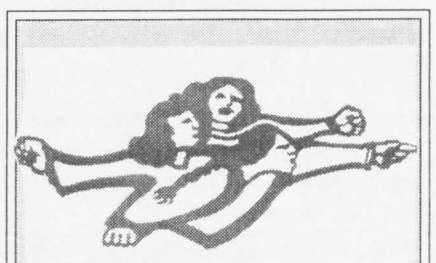
New York City, 1998: A short ceremony was held outside the historic Judson Memorial Church, site of the first Clergy Consultation Service formed to refer women to abortion providers before Roe v. Wade made abortion legal. Two local clinic administrators were presented with flowers and large cards. A program hosted by a coalition of groups was held at Columbia University to honor providers. A staffer at a city hospital abortion service said that after being at the inspiring program, she would "go to work full of enthusiasm for helping women have abortions."

Atlanta, GA, 1998: Refuse and Resist! Atlanta sent all the area clinics certificates of appreciation. Also, a young women who saw a flyer in a local coffeehouse, organized her mother and friends and to write notes of appreciation to providers.

Nebraska, 1998: Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice delivered dessert trays and cards of appreciation to all of the clinics who provide abortion in town, in spite of a blizzard two days earlier that shut down the schools for a week.

Refuse and Resist is a non-partisan national membership organization for both activists and others to support resistance in other ways. "To the racists and women haters, to the gay-bashers and welfare slashers, to the prison builders and executioners, we say: THE FUTURE IS NOT YOURS!"

Refuse and Resist!
305 Madison Ave. #1166
New York, NY 10165
E-mail: refuse@calyx.com.
<www.calyx.com/~refuse>.



To the Abortion Providers of Olympia:

Thank You for your courage & service.

Without you, there is no *choice!*

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Legalized Cop Violence

Mumia Abu-Jamal

"When a gang member is beaten by persons unknown in a mixed neighborhood, and the black gangs begin terrorizing WHITES, it is called racism, a bunch of cops can ride through black neighborhoods all day beatin' ass, and call it law, when a bunch of blacks beat one of these cops' ass it's called mob violence."

JOHN AFRICA (May 1967)

A young woman, engulfed in a diabetic coma while sitting in her car, is repeatedly shot by a corps of cops, who say they are threatened by the young woman. Tyesha Miller, of Riverside, California, becomes a statistic.

A young man sitting in his car in North Philly is surrounded by a phalanx of armed cops, whose guns are pointed at him from all points. He is ordered to raise his hands. When he does so, he is shot to death by one of the cops, who insists he thought he saw a gun. The 18-year old is unarmed. Dontae Dawson becomes a statistic.

An emigrant from the West African nation of Senegal comes to America, taking an apartment in New York's Bronx Borough. When four NYPD cops approach his door, reportedly because of a suspected rape (he was not a suspect), he is shot at 41 times. Nineteen shots hit him. Amadou Diallo was unarmed, and will never return to West Africa.

In case after case after case, in city after city, from coast to coast, such cases arise with alarming regularity, worsened by the realization that, in most cases, cops who have committed these acts, that if committed by others would constitute high crimes, will face no serious prosecution, if any prosecution at all.

They are, the corporate media assures us, "just doing their jobs", "under an awful lot of pressure", or "in fear", and therefore justified in what they do. In the language of the media, the very media that make their millions off of the punishment industry calling for the vilest sentences known to man, turn, in the twinkling of an eye, into paragons of mercy, who lament that the "fine young men" who "served their community" are in "trouble", or have "suffered enough."

The suffering of the slain, because they are young, and black, are all but forgotten in this unholy algebra that devalues Black life, while heightening the worth of the assailants because they work for the state.

The worst lie that is often trotted out when such cases occur is when politicians and media people sing the praises of such people, who are called, by virtue of their jobs, "public servants." Since when have servants (of any kind) acted in the vile, arrogant, monstrous manner that many of these cops do in Black, Hispanic and poor communities? Since when have such servants been in the position to slaughter, shoot, humiliate and imprison the very public they are sworn to serve?

They are servants, if at all, of the political structures of which they are a part, not of the people. They are servants, if at all, of the state. They serve the interests of capital, of the wealthy, of those who run this system from their bank vaults and corporate offices.

They do not serve the poor, the powerless, nor the uninfluential.

They never have.

They are an armed force organized to protect the interests of the established, and those who own capital. The history of labor in this country is splattered by the blood of trade unionists who were beaten, shot and crushed to the earth for striking against the trusts, combinations, and megacorporations of capital. Who did the beating? The shooting? The crushing? The cops, who served the interests of a state that declared, as did the Supreme Court, that unions were "criminal conspiracies", and that "The Constitution was. . . based upon the concept that the fundamental private rights of property are anterior to government and morally beyond the reach of popular majorities" [from Frances Fox Piven & Richard A. Cloward, THE NEW CLASS WAR: REAGAN'S ATTACK ON THE WELFARE STATE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES (1982), citing Charles A. Beard, AN ECONOMIC INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES (1965)].

Capital's voice (the media) and their agents (the politicians) unite in a chorus of support for their legalized killers, who bomb babies with impunity (remember May 13, 1985 - Philadelphia), who shoot unarmed kids in their cars, and unarmed African emigrants, whose only capital crime is being Black in modern-day America.

This legalized violence that they do daily proves that violence is not a problem to the system - when it is their's against the people.

This awful crime must cease.

Copyright 1999/maj

Capital's voice (the media) and their agents (the politicians) unite in a chorus of support for their legalized killers, who bomb babies with impunity (remember May 13, 1985 - Philadelphia), who shoot unarmed kids in their cars, and unarmed African emigrants, whose only capital crime is being Black in modern-day America.

Olympia Free Mumia Coalition Meeting

Sunday, February 28th at 1pm
Bread & Roses on Cherry Street

An ad-hoc coalition of Olympia activists, known as Free Mumia Coalition, is holding a meeting to form committees to work on the Millions For Mumia march to be held on April 24th. The public is invited to come and participate. Committees will be responsible for fundraising, transportation, outreach and presentations.

The Evergreen State College has just elected Mumia Abu-Jamal as the senior graduation speaker. The Thurston/Lewis Labor Council has also come out in support of Mumia by passing a resolution in his favor.

A NEW TRIAL FOR MUMIA IS A SIMPLE APPEAL FOR JUSTICE. The police and courts of Philadelphia, the most notorious in the U.S. for brutality and corruption, have framed an innocent and courageous journalist. Mumia Abu-Jamal is on death row awaiting execution. His case has attracted wide support among human rights activists around the world. The Pennsylvania State Supreme Court denied African American political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeal for a new trial. Governor Thomas Ridge said he will sign a death warrant for Mumia Abu-Jamal's execution.

The struggle for Mumia Abu-Jamal's life has become an epicenter of the people's movements trying to shake free from the widespread human rights violations that Amnesty International now documents as plaguing the entire United States (police brutality, runaway prison-building and use of the death penalty, harassment of asylum seekers and the marketing of weaponry). We dare not lose this struggle for Mumia. The time to act is now!

The controversy surrounding the African-American journalist and activist Mumia Abu-Jamal, who is on death row for the 1982 murder of Philadelphia policeman Daniel Faulkner, was denied a retrial recently. Jamal could be assigned a death date at any time. His case is complicated and most agree that a new trial is warranted. For info call 866-6000 x6144.

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Signature Ad Campaign
End the Sanctions Against Iraq

I hope you will take a moment to look over the New York Times signature ad against sanctions printed below and that you will consider signing on to this important campaign.

In solidarity,
Anthony Arnove
Editor
South End Press

Dear Friend,

A growing chorus of people, in this country and around the world, are demanding an end to the murderous sanctions against Iraq, which are a direct result of U.S. government policy. The sanctions have taken a staggering toll among Iraqi civilians-especially the sick, the elderly and, above all, children under the age of 5.

Here in the U.S., the mainstream media is finally giving some attention to the deadly effects of the sanctions. But much more is needed. Most people in this country have little or no knowledge of the human suffering that is being inflicted by our government, in our name.

We have initiated a campaign to place a full-page signature ad in the New York Times. We believe that such an ad can play an important part in giving voice to the growing opposition to the sanctions against the Iraqi people.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to sign on to the signature ad, which will appear in the New York Times within the next six weeks. We also ask that, if at all possible, you enclose a contribution to help finance it. As you may imagine, the ad will cost a great deal of money -- $34,000. But it will allow us to reach the widest possible audience with the facts about the sanctions.

We have enclosed the text of the ad as it will appear. Please fill out the form below and return it to us in the enclosed envelope at your earliest convenience. We are certain that you share our sense of urgency to place this ad as quickly as possible.

If you add your name, we will contact you to let you know when to look for the signature ad.

Available on the web at http://www.endiraqsanctions.com

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Sanctions ARE Weapons of Mass Destruction

We the undersigned call upon the United States government to end all sanctions against the people of Iraq.

At the end of 1998, the United States once again rained bombs on the people of Iraq. But even when the bombs stop falling, the U.S. war against the people of Iraq continues-through the United Nations harsh sanctions on Iraq, which are the direct result of U.S. policy.

This month, U.S. policy will kill 4,500 Iraqi children under the age of 5, according to United Nations studies, just as it did last month and the month before that all the way back to 1991. Since the end of the Gulf War, more than a million Iraqis have died as a direct result of the UN sanctions on Iraq.

To oppose the sanctions is not equivalent to supporting the regime of Saddam Hussein. To oppose the sanctions is to support the Iraqi people. Saddam Hussein is a murderous dictator, who promotes those who are loyal to him and kills all those who voice opposition to his regime. But throughout the 1980s, when it suited U.S. strategic interests in the Middle East, the U.S. government was more than willing to ignore Saddam Hussein's brutality.

In fact, U.S. and European companies provided Iraq with materials used to produce Saddam Hussein's "weapons of mass destruction." Moreover, the sanctions have not affected the lifestyle of Saddam Hussein or his inner circle. Food and medicine are available for those who can afford it. The sanctions hurt only the Iraqi people.

The sanctions are weapons of mass destruction. When a UN inspections team visited Iraq to survey the damage from the Gulf War in March 1991, it concluded that the bombing has reduced Iraq to a "pre-industrial age." The team said at that time that if the sanctions were not lifted, the country faced "immediate catastrophe." Yet the sanctions have continued for the last seven years, preventing Iraq from obtaining the hard currency to buy basic food stuffs and medicines-or to rebuild its infrastructure. The oil-for-food deal that allows Iraq to sell $5.2 billion of its oil every six months has had only marginal effects. The United Nations takes one-third of all oil revenues for war reparations and its own expenses. The oil-for-food program does not generate enough money to feed adequately a population of 22 million. Raising the ceiling would not help. The refineries were bombed during the war and need to be rebuilt-even now, Iraq is unable to produce all the oil it is allowed to. In October, Denis Halliday, the UN coordinator for humanitarian aid to Iraq, resigned in protest, arguing that the sanctions "are starving to death 6,000 Iraqi infants every month, ignoring the human rights of ordinary Iraqis and turning a whole generation against the West."

The sanctions also prevent Iraq from importing many basic necessities. Most pesticides and fertilizer are banned because of their potential military use. Raw sewage is pumped continuously into water that people end up drinking because Iraq's water treatment plants were blown up by US bombs in 1991 -- and most have never been repaired. Yet chlorine is banned under the sanctions because it also could be of military use. Typhoid, dysentery and cholera have reached epidemic proportions. Farid Zarif, deputy director of the UN humanitarian aid program in Baghdad, argued recently, "We are told that pencils are forbidden because carbon could be extracted from them that might be used to coat airplanes and make them invisible to radar. I am not a military expert, but I find it very disturbing that because of this objection, we cannot give pencils to Iraqi schoolchildren."

For the past several years, individuals and groups have been delivering medicine and other supplies to Iraq in defiance of the U.S. blockade. Now, members of one of those groups, Chicago-based Voices in the Wilderness, have been threatened with massive fines by the federal government for "exportation of donated goods, including medical supplies and toys, to Iraq absent specific prior authorization." Our government is harassing a peace group that takes medicine and toys to dying children: we owe these courageous activists our support.

This is not foreign policy -- it is state-sanctioned mass murder. The Iraqi people are suffering because of the actions of both the Iraqi and U.S. governments, but our moral responsibility lies here in the United States. If we remain silent, we are condoning a genocide that is being perpetrated in the name of peace in the Middle East, a mass slaughter that is being perpetrated in our name.

__ Yes, add my name to the *New York Times* signature ad:

Name/Title_____

Organization*_____

Mailing Address_____

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Telephone_____

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____ I want to help finance the ad. Enclosed is a check for:
$50_____ $100_____ $500_____
$1,000_____ Other_____

Please make checks payable to the *New York Times* and mail to:

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Signature Ad Campaign
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v: 773-665-8695 - f: 773-665-9651
e: <endsanctions@hotmail.com>

*Organizations are listed for identification purposes only.

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These are *the* authentic posters previously printed in the pages of *Works In Progress*.

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Send $1 for one or $1.50 for both to :

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PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507

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Get yours today!!

NO WAR

Iraq's Lost Generation

America's Lost Soul

Richard McDowell

"If we have to use force, it is because we are America. We are the indispensable nation. We stand tall. We see further into the future."

-- Secretary of State Madeline Albright

IRAQ - In July, sailing by moonlight along Basrah's Shatt Al-Arab, the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, I saw the eerie hulks of rusting ships bombed by the US and its allies in 1991. Looking at the floating graveyard, I recalled Ms. Albright's description of America's vision.

Today, the "indispensable nation" stands like a towering bully over 22 million people who have been battered and crippled by a state of siege. After several days of visits to hospitals and internal refugee camps, I was overwhelmed by the waste of an entire generation of Iraqi children and the destruction of hundreds of thousands of human lives.

Earlier this year, as the US prepared to unleash another bombardment on Iraqi people, members of a Voices in the Wilderness delegation stood before a mother and her dying child in a pediatric unit of Baghdad's Al Monsour Hospital. We watched helplessly as Ferial breathed her last breath. Suddenly, other mothers, cradling their children, joined in an anguished choir of despair.

Days earlier, at the Maternity and Pediatrics Hospital in Basrah, I saw a young man writhe in pain while waiting with his father for nonexistent cancer medicine and unavailable pain-killers. I turned away only to encounter another man collapsed on the floor, crying for his daughter who was dying for lack of medicine. You cannot escape the suffering and death that defines Iraq today.

Iraq is hemorrhaging under the strain of the most comprehensive sanctions ever imposed in modern history. Denis Halliday, UN assistant secretary general and humanitarian coordinator for Iraq, says that sanctions are "undermining the moral credibility of the UN" and their continuation is "in contradiction to the human rights provisions in the UN's own Charter."

Mary Robinson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, has asked: "How can you expect me to condemn human rights abuses in Algeria and China and elsewhere when the United Nations themselves are responsible for the worst situation in Iraq."

Wheat flour now costs 11,667 times more than it did in July, 1990, salaries average between $2 and $7 per month and the UN estimates that four million Iraqis about 20 percent of the population now live in extreme poverty.

According to UNICEF, eight years of economic warfare have resulted in the deaths of more than half a million children. Some 4,500 children under the age of five are dying each month from hunger and disease and, in Central/Southern Iraq, 960,000 children are at risk of acute malnutrition.

The FAO reports that even with full compliance of UN Security Council Resolution 986 the provision that allows Iraq to export oil to purchase food the country's nutritional needs "will progressively deteriorate with grave consequences to the health and life of the Iraqi people."

An estimated 25 percent of Iraqi babies are born with low birthweights. The World Health Organization (WHO) warns that many of these children will not catch up in their physical or mental development, leading to long-term health problems and a lost generation.

UN Humanitarian Mission inspections of Iraq's 52,000 food-distribution centers found that rations typically last only 20 days, forcing Iraqis to survive by selling their personal possessions, household goods and clothes in order to buy food. Those with nothing left to sell may be forced to beg or enter into prostitution.

...a UN official, when asked what gave him hope, replied: 'Today I have no hope.' He stated that conditions in Iraq are worse than they were when he worked in Somalia. He fears that two generations of Iraqis have been lost.

Widespread shortages of antibiotics, analgesics, anesthetics and laboratory materials have lead to the reemergence of many diseases, primarily those linked to the damaged water and sanitation systems, such as cholera, dysentery, malaria and typhoid fever.

Although dissent was not tolerated, oil-rich Iraqis once enjoyed a good standard of living, including free access to the region's best health care, education, social security and social welfare programs. Today, teachers moonlight as taxi drivers to supplement their $3-a-month salaries as they attempt to cope with a severe lack of books and pencils, overcrowded classrooms, deteriorating buildings and malnourished students who find it difficult to concentrate and learn.

Iraq's Irradiated South

The most enduring legacy of the Gulf War may be the more than 315 tons of depleted uranium, (DU) released by US tanks and aircraft. A dense, radioactive by-product of uranium fuel enrichment, DU (with a half-life of 4.5 billion years), was made into armor-piercing shells that exploded and burned, releasing clouds of radioactive dust that were inhaled, ingested and absorbed through open wounds. Although the Pentagon was aware of the health risks of using DU weapons, it failed to alert US and Allied forces or **Kuwaiti and Iraqi officials.**

A July 1990 report prepared for the US Army warned: "Short-term effects of high doses can result in deaths, while long-term effects of low doses have been implicated in cancers, kidney problems and birth defects."

A leaked UN document has reported a 55 percent increase in cancer in Iraq between 1989 and 1994. A growing number of international scientists are convinced that these increases are the result of DU residues in the soil, air and water.

After seeing the babies of fellow soldiers born with congenital deformities, some former soldiers have refused to marry. In January, FAO officials reported that sheep in southern Iraq have been genetically altered. Millions of Iraqis continue to live, work and play in the contaminated areas.

The Death of Hope

The heart and soul of the people —the social fabric of the nation—is being destroyed. Earlier this year, a UN official, when asked what gave him hope, replied: "Today I have no hope." He stated that conditions in Iraq are worse than they were when he worked in Somalia. He fears that two generations of Iraqis have been lost.

What happens to Iraq's children may seem of little consequence to many Americans, but if we care about the lives of our own children, we must be concerned with the world we are creating a world where the US remains, in the words of Martin Luther King, "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today."

While many countries, including France, China, Russia and several of Iraq's neighbors, have urged the lifting of sanctions, the US has publicly stated that sanctions will stay in place as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power.

Congress has approved millions of dollars to destabilize the government of Iraq, while US administration and congressional leaders have called for covert and overt measures to overthrow President Hussein, all in clear violation of international laws and treaties.

US objectives in the Middle East were clearly expressed 50 years ago by George Kennan in his State Department Policy Planning Study 23. The US, Kennan wrote, had "50 percent of the world's wealth, but only 6.3 percent of its population.... Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which permit us to maintain this position of disparity.... To do so, we will have to dispense with all sentimentality and day-dreaming, and our attention will have to be concentrated everywhere on our immediate national objectives. We should cease to talk about vague and unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of living standards, and democratization. The day is not far off when we are going to have to deal in straight power concepts. The less we are hampered by idealistic slogans the better."

The myth persists that sanctions are merely a "kinder and gentler" way to insure another government's capitulation. But the message Iraqis have asked us to carry back to our country is a simple one: "Have mercy on us."

Richard McDowell has led seven delegations to Iraq. His most recent trip was in July 1998. He co-coordinates Voices in the Wilderness, *1460 W. Carmen Ave., Chicago, IL 60640, (773) 784-8065, fax: (773) 784-8837, www.nonviolence.org/vitw/*

photo by Gifford Pinchot Task Force

THE GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST

People and Trees or People Versus Trees

by Frank Hoffman

At an Olympia meeting of the Southwest Province Advisory Committee January 27, people talked during the public comment period about ways to deal with overuse of wilderness areas in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. More and more people are going into the woods and the designated hiking and camping areas are getting overused.

The Forest Service seems to be leaning toward a permit system. The permits would cost money and would limit use of the wilderness areas.

Most of the people talking during the comment period suggested another approach. Why not use roadless areas next to wilderness ?

There are two problems with using roadless areas. People don't know where they are, for one. Hikers go to the overused wilderness areas because they are on the maps and in the books. There are trails and signs at the trailheads, places to park, designated camping areas. If the roadless areas got on the maps and there was appropriate signage, people would go there instead of the designated wilderness places.

The other problem is logging. Some of the currently roadless areas are designated for logging. However, timber sales are down. And some argue that recreational use of the woods brings in more money than logging.

It doesn't seem appropriate that a hiker should have to buy a ticket (permit) to spend time in the woods. The woods are there. They belong to us. Instead of concentrating hiking use, disperse it into roadless areas.

We need the forest, you know. Walking in the woods reminds us we come out of the earth, like the trees. The forest gives us perspective about our importance. The silence makes us notice the empty noise in our lives. (The animals in the woods seem to do okay without T.V.) We need more wilderness and fewer roads.

If you also have concerns about a permit system, tell Randy Shepard why. His address is:

Cowlitz Valley Ranger District
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
P.O. Box 670
Randle WA 98377

Midnight Shame

U.S.A. Executes Child Offender

Amnesty International

The execution of Sean Sellers shames the USA and is a further sign of its selective contempt for the international human rights standards it so often claims to support, Amnesty International said today.

Sean Sellers was executed by lethal injection in Oklahoma State Penitentiary just after midnight on 4 February, for crimes committed when he was a 16-year-old boy.

International law prohibits the use of the death penalty against those under 18 at the time of the crimes. It is a principle that is now so widely accepted that no country is exempt from it.

"The USA's repeated claims that it is the most progressive force for human rights in the world are contradicted by its blatant flouting of the global moral and legal consensus that killing people for their childhood crimes is wrong," Amnesty International said.

"By executing Sean Sellers, the US authorities have turned their clock back 40 years to the last time a US prisoner was put to death for a crime committed at 16. This cannot be defined as a progressive act." The Organization of American States, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Defence for Children International, the American Bar Association, and Amnesty International were among those who appealed for the execution to be stopped.

On 27 January, the day the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board rejected Sean Sellers plea for clemency, Pope John Paul II challenged the USA to reject the cruelty of the death penalty. However, Oklahoma's Governor, a Catholic, welcomed the clemency rejection. In television interviews on 3 February he said that the Pope was "wrong" about the death penalty. "In the end, international law and the global moral consensus was ignored to satisfy perceived domestic opinion," Amnesty International continued.

"In doing so the authorities have done nothing but deepen the culture of violence in US society. It is time to seek constructive solutions to violent crimes, including those committed by children."

The execution of Sean Sellers has confirmed the USA as the world's leading perpetrator of the execution of people under 18 at the time of the crime. It has now executed 10 child offenders since 1990, one more than the rest of the world combined. The nine others killed in the USA were 17 at the time of the crime.

The USA has now carried out the last four executions of child offenders known in the world, having put three such prisoners to death in 1998. Only five other countries are known to have carried out such executions since 1990.

Sean Sellers was the 512th prisoner executed in the USA since it resumed executions in 1977. In the past six years an average of one prisoner a week has been put to death. So far in 1999 the pace has increased to nearly three executions a week. Twelve people have already been killed this year, and at least another 11 are currently facing execution in February.

"The execution of Sean Sellers has confirmed the USA as the world's leading perpetrator of the execution of people under 18 at the time of the crime."

Background

Against the worldwide trend towards abolition of the death penalty, the USA is not only increasing its own resort to judicial executions but has also contributed to recent retrograde steps on capital punishment in other countries.

The Philippines is due to execute its first prisoner in more than two decades tomorrow, 5 February. In 1997 officials from the Philippines were reported to have visited US execution chambers as part of their research into adopting lethal injection as an execution method.

Similarly, in Guatemala, the lethal injection chamber was imported after a government delegation visited the USA in 1997 to learn about executions by lethal injection. As of February 1999, there are some 35 people awaiting execution on Guatemala's death row.

On 29 January 1999, the Attorneys General of 12 countries of the English-speaking Caribbean signed a statement in Trinidad advising their governments to withdraw from the Inter-American Human Rights Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, then to reaffirm all parts except those dealing with the death penalty. This decision follows a meeting in early 1998 between the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago and the US Attorney General. Among the topics discussed was the problem Trinidad was having in executing prisoners as quickly as it would like. The US Attorney General reportedly pledged her country's support in giving any assistance Trinidad required in implementing the death penalty.

Amnesty International, Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, WC1X 8DJ, London, United Kingdom

Sign "Moratorium 2000"

The International Campaign Against the Death Penalty is collecting electronic "signatures" on a petition called "Moratorium 2000". It calls for the abolition of the death penalty or, at least, its suspension. Currently they have 220,000 "signatures" which they plan to present to Kofi Annan, the general secretary of the United Nations.

If you wish to add your "signature", email Sergio Benedetti of the Community of Sant'Egidio - sprin@rm.ats.it

Books To Prisoner Page

Ohio Executes Man Who Suffered From Schizophrenia

A.C.L.U. - The state sanctioned murder of Wilford Berry, took place on February 19, 1999, at 9:31pm at the Southeastern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville. He is the first person executed in Ohio since 1963.

Berry and Anthony Lozar were convicted of killing Charles Mitroff in December 1989. Unlike Mr. Berry, Mr. Lozar chose to mount a defense and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Berry was suicidal since the age of nine and suffered from schizophreniform disorder and chronic undifferentiated schizophrenia, according to a number of doctors including court-appointed psychiatrists. He would not cooperate with authorities in his case unless he was assured that he would receive the death penalty. He asked the jury to sentence him to die and refused to work with his attorneys in their efforts to save his life.

"The fact that the first person the state of Ohio chose to execute in 35 years is a man who was clearly mentally ill only compounds the injustice of this case," said Diann Rust-Tierney, Director of the ACLU's Capital Punishment Project. "The death penalty is never the answer, regardless of the tragic wish of someone who wants to be its next victim.

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generousity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

In greatest demand are:

English, Spanish/English, Southeast Asian dictionaries, thesaurus, new almanaces, and GED books.

Frequently requested are:

African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American history and progressive U.S. history.

Please donate:

- Any other good books
- Stamps and stamp money
- Money for tape, wrapping paper, copying

Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the Liberation Cafe above Bulldog News.

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Address: Books to Prisoners c/o Liberation Cafe, 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Telephone: (360) 352-7336

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:

Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

INMATE COREY L. DEDRICK, #561394, IN HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS IS WAITING FOR HIS WIP! BY SPONSORING HIS SUBSCRIPTION, YOU CAN BE SURE IT REACHES HIM.

SEE PAGE 2

Attention Prisoners

***W.I.P.* seeks articles, artwork (black and white is best) from those in prison. Please send submissions to:**

Works In Progress,
PO Box 295,
Olympia WA 98507-0295

Books to Prisoners on-going Events

- Books to Prisoners has moved to the downstairs back room at Bull Dog News.
- Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of Bulldog News, 116 E. 4th, Olympia. *Training takes about 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime Bulldog is open.*
- **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sun. of the month 3 pm at Liberation Cafe 116 E. 4th Ave, Olympia
- Turn in Bayview and Ralph's receipts. Please bring in or mail all the receipts you can. B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.
- **Save the UPC code from Western Family Products** and send to B to P, 115 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501

(T.U.L.I.P., continued)

be respectful and responsive to community concerns. To serve on the board, you must also qualify for membership in the club by meeting the annual income criteria, which cannot exceed $18,600 for an individual or $33,800 for a household.

Specific duties of a Director include:

1. Attendance at all board and committee meetings and functions.
2. To be informed about T.U.L.I.P.'s mission, services, policies and programs.
3. Reviewing agenda and supporting materials prior to board meetings.
4. Serving on committees and offering to take on special assignments.
5. Informing others about the organization.
6. Suggesting possible board nominees who can make significant contributions to the work of the board and the organizaton.
7. Keeping up-to-date on developments in areas related to T.U.L.I.P.'s mission.
8. Following conflict of interest and confidentiality policies.
9. Assisting the board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing T.U.L.I.P.'s annual financial statements.
10. Developing and implementing fundraising activities as needed.

Sound exciting and interesting?
Contact T.U.L.I.P. for more info at:
T.U.L.I.P.
PO BOX 1243
Olympia WA 98507-1243
(360)956-9235
email: tulipcu@hotmail.com

(Westside, continued)

bors and other locals took turns telling the council about their concerns over the proposed development of the lot. After the meeting, activists connected with one another and talked of a need to band together in order to increase their strength.

Different activists have taken varying approaches of opposition. Leanne Kirkwood, whose home is located less than 40 feet from the lot, has been working with the Southwest Neighborhood Association. She has attempted to take part in the developmental planning process, but after having been ignored and dismissed so far, she states that if worse comes to worst, she will appeal the sites development when the planning process is through. She has also gone door-to-door with a petition stating opposition to the proposed gas station. Several local businesses such as BP and the Red Giant have shown their attitude toward the proposed fuel station by displaying Leanne's petitions. The petitions have been signed by at least 250 people so far.

Meanwhile, a group of young social justice and environmental activists has recently begun work to stir up public interest in the corner lot. During evening rush hour on Monday, Feb. 15, a group of 9 activists (this reporter included) descended upon the lot, removing litter and planting signs, potted pansies, and two benches made of discarded school bus seats. "IMAGINE: What Would You Like to See Here?" one sign asked commuters as they waited at a red light.

Activist groups will soon be working together in a coordinated campaign. At the 2/28 OCAD general meeting, a Southwest Neighborhood Association representative will give a presentation arguing that the

corner lot issue is an example of how corporate influence undermines local democracy. The aims of this event are to promote concern for the corner lot issue, and to increase inter-organizational work for it.

There is some question over how far the gas station/mini-mart proposal process has gone at this point. At the City Council meeting, one person claimed that the permit has already been granted, and then someone else stated that the proposal has only made it as far as the design review board. One thing that is clear, however, is that the process is still open to public comment. This fact is clearly stated on a sign at the corner lot which invites the public to call Olympia Community Planning and Development with comments.

In the future, activists will probably focus on increased public outreach, continued participation in the proposal's process, and production of an alternative proposal which allows the local owner to profit from a lot development that, at the least, doesn't harm the community, or, at best, encourages and strengthens the community by creating community-friendly space in this central location.

Some locals, however, are taking the issue a step further by suggesting that citizens push the City Council to condemn the development, and then purchasing the lot with money from the Land Bank Fund. These people view the corner lot issue as a sequel to the early 90's Jack-in-the-Box battle, in which locals not only stopped Jack-In-the-Box from moving in at the corner adjacent to the Value Village parking lot, but also created a moratorium on drive-thru food developments on the West Side. The issue of the corner lot's fate definitely causes many of us to question the whole direction of the Comprehensive Plan that guides commercial development in the Olympia area. What sort of place to we want Olympia to be in 5, 20, 50 years? And what direction has Olympia actually been heading in?

If this is an issue that moves you to take action, these are some things you can do:

+ Share your comments with the Department of Parks and Recreation. Write to 837 7th Ave. SE, Olympia, WA 98507, or call 753-8314 and talk to Jackie.

+ Sign a petition opposing the proposed gas station/mini-mart. Petitions can be found at nearby businesses, including the Red Giant and BP.

+ If you have questions, or want to find out how to get involved, call: 456-6120

+ Visit the corner lot, and look around. What would you like to see grow there? (Keep in mind that a 12-foot strip along the Division-side of the lot belongs to the city and is destined to become a right-turn lane, so nothing can be built in that area.)

Briefs, continued

4pm at United Churches, 110 11th Ave SE Olympia

March 20 *Food Storage,* 1-4pm at United Churches, 110 11th Ave SE Olympia

March 27 *Food Preservation,* 1-4pm at First Christian Church, 701 Franklin St, Olympia

New Activist Radio Show on KAOS 89.3 FM

Worker In Progress Wendy Ortiz began her new radio show in February. *¡Presente!* is on alternating Saturdays from 6-8pm on KAOS 89.3 FM. The focus of the show is on social justice issues from women of color perspectives. The first show contained a radical feminist calendar of events, and an interview with women from the Women of Color Coalition of the Evergreen State College. It's 60% activism and 40% acid jazz ska funk punk hip hop oldies eighties and more. The show alternates with "Dances in the Revolution", a blues and social justice show with Patty Imani. The next show will air on Sat. March 6 from 6-8pm, and will feature Anya Hill, co-founder of Bread & Roses, talking about the new Dorothy Day Family Center. Upcoming shows will include women of color and health; environmental action in communities of color; sex radical feminism; women of color in the arts; and knocking over the ivory towers! Check it out on March 6 and 20 and alternating Saturdays thereafter.

African American Museum

The African American Museum was organized in 1993 for the purpose of educating the general public about the contributions made by African Americans. Prior to 1993, the Pacific Northwest remained the only section of the country without such an istitution. The African American Museum existed its first year as a *Museum Without Walls.* During that year, the Museum traveled all over the state and exhibited displays and presented workshops that dealt with the culture and history of African Americans.

In 1996, The African American Museum moved into its very first leased facility. This facility currently houses thousands of artifacts and pictures. The Museum has the largest collection of oral histories relating to the lives of African Americans in the Pacific Northwest.

March 6 *African American Artist Showcase*

March 11 *Oral History, Roslyn, Washington's Black Miner*

March 13 *African Storytelling*

March 18 *Free Blood Pressure Check Day*

March 20 *Tacoma's Oldest African American Photo Showcase*

March 27 *Annual Women's Day Program, "Building A Museum Dinner" Fundraiser.* Reception begins at 6p.m.) Held at the Temple Theatre in Tacoma.

The African Museum is opened 10a.m. - 5p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is $2.75 for ages four and older. Groups (ten or more) and Seniors are $2.25. Persons wishing to participate in the workshops will be charged an extra $.50 for workshop supplies. 925 Court C Tacoma, WA 98402 (253) 274-1278.

The Environmental Law Conference

It is March 4-7 which is a Thursday through Sunday in Oregon.

Panels include: Sexism within the movement, vivisection, circle of oppression, environmental cost of animal exploitation, the Makah whaling controversy, religion and aimalright, links between humana and animal abuse, strategies forabolishing the fur trade, and manyother panels including a huge variety of speakers.

Keynoters include Romana Africa, Dr. Helen Caldicott, Julia Butterfly, Andrea Smith, John Trudell, Paul Waldau and others.

There will also be a possible demo Sunday or Monday against vivisection at the UO.

Contact Chelsea Knox Lincoln <chelsea@gladstone.uoregon.edu>

BEFORE YOU LEAVE, SUBSCRIBE!

SEE PAGE 2

SUBSCRIBE IN MARCH AND GET A FREE TICKET TO ROLLERSKATE ON APRIL 15TH (SEE BACK COVER)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, March 19th

6pm at Dancing Goats

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, March 23rd
7pm at Olympia Library

WORKS IN PROGRESS:
PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
phone/fax (360) 705-2726
wip@olywa.net

WORKS IN PROGRESS

THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

MARCH 1999

FREE

Farmworker Housing Rally and Lobbying Day. See article on page 5.

1
Working Towards "Community-Friendly" & Earth Firsters! on Trial

4
Along the Color Line Education vs. Incarceration

7
Labor Party History

8
Women's History Poster

9
Carol Leigh aka Scarlot Harlot

11
Legalized Cop Violence

12-13
End Sanctions on Iraq

Activists and other concerned people now have two opportunities to skate (or just hang out at Skateland and listen to great music):

MARCH: Salsa, Reggae, and Merengue Skate on Sat., March 13 from 5:30-7:30pm to benefit the Hispanic Youth Network to raise funds for their Annual Latina Youth Workshop. Cost is $5-7 sliding scale. All ages.

APRIL: 1980's Skate II: Rob spins the obscure and the best 80's songs for your skating enjoyment on Thurs., April 15 from 8:30-10:30 pm. $5-7 benefits Works In Progress newspaper and Radical Alternative Media Project. 80's costume contest, trivia, & record giveaways. Best Reagan impersonation wins a pie in the face & one to take home. All ages.

Skateland is located 1/2 mile out on South Bay Road. Call 352-9943 for directions. Cost of admission for all benefits includes skate rental fee. Please respect shared space—no fragrance/perfume, please.

Mark your calendars and carpool with your friends! SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ACTIVIST & YOUTH ACTIVIST GROUPS!

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507